

Management that Matters: Mirror, Mirror

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

Small Group Discussion

Opening questions (this question is designed to get everyone involved in discussion)

- Tomorrow morning you learn that you won \$10,000,000 in the lottery. What do you do with it?
- Pastor Josh began Sunday's sermon by saying that we have "won the lottery," so to speak, in terms of spiritual resources. What did he mean? Do you agree or disagree?
- Throughout this series, we're taking stock of various resources that God has entrusted us to manage. This week the resources we're discussing are financial. How do you feel about discussing the topic of money, and especially giving, in a group setting?

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, then discuss the following.

- How would you summarize what Paul is trying to move the Corinthians to do here? What approach does he take to move them to do that?
- See if you can locate the five uses of the Greek word "charis," which Josh mentioned on Sunday. Hint: the word means "grace," but sometimes it is translated otherwise. (Leaders: see vv. 1, 4, 6, 7, and 9).
- What do you think about the Macedonian Christians who are described here? How were they able to overflow "in rich generosity?" (v. 2)
- In what way does v. 9 provide the motivating force for Paul's argument?
- On Sunday, Pastor Josh summarized this passage by saying, "Grace given mirrors grace received." What does this statement mean?
 - To what degree do you feel that your handling of your financial resources mirrors the grace that you have received in Christ?
- To what degree do you feel that **mirroring grace through financial generosity is a privilege?**
- What does it mean that **mirroring grace through financial generosity is proof** that you have experienced God's grace. How does this overflow differ from *trying* to prove something?
- What does it mean that **mirroring grace through financial generosity is proportionate?** Has your understanding of proportionate giving evolved or changed throughout your life with the Lord?
- In vv. 6-7, what would lead you to believe that **mirroring grace through financial generosity must be purposeful?**
 - How does Paul's statement in 1 Cor. 16:2 shed light on this aspect?
 - How does the fact of God's ownership, as we saw in Matt. 25 (several weeks ago), impact this aspect of financial generosity?

- On Sunday, we heard two applications of being purposeful with our giving. Discuss as prompted below.
 - a) **God's grace prompts regular giving to a local body (church).**
 - Why would you commit to giving consistently and primarily to one local church?
 - Read Malachi 3:6-12. What does God say about tithing in this passage?
 - Pastor Josh implied that tithing to a local church is still a baseline expectation that God asks of people who receive his grace. What do you think about this principle?
 - What is meant by the following statement? *It takes about a tenth of a congregation's income to support the ministry of that church, no matter what size the church is.*
 - If you are not already practicing this, what keeps you from it? How could you begin to move towards such a practice?
 - b) **God's grace prompts giving to specific needs at specific times.**
 - What might it look like for you to "set aside a sum of money" to have it available for giving to specific needs?
 - How do you feel about the specific need that our church has, which was mentioned on Sunday? When you pray, take some time to ask God to show you how he wants you to help meet that need.

Share and Pray

- Share your needs with one another and pray for them specifically.
- If you feel comfortable doing so, "offer up" all of your finances to God in prayer, for his purposes.